

5/21/71

Dear Paul,

Got a call from my sister this morning that my mother was going into surgery at 12:30 today, and the silence since has been disquieting. So, I laid aside writing, gathered up some materials I'd need for it and, reluctant to get far from the phone with Lili enjoying the tricks of her trick knee, I've been doing odds and ends.

I reread your 1/8/69 memo on Ruby as an FBI informant and, as you did, find much of Hoover's stuff impossible to believe. There is no such thing as a guy in Ruby's position the agents don't see as often as the dogs go to the garbage pails. But they claim five years of total separation? Unless the language is tricky and means only that the agents did not go to see Ruby. Which could then mean he got in touch with them or they were glad Don Ameche was born.

One thing I have in CD 4 is fascinating: Ruby to Cuba and no passport record, no interview on his return?

I'm wondering if you might be updating this as you go over the new stuff. I initially decided to do little about Ruby for two reasons: I believed it would turn out to be the most difficult area and it was proper to withhold everything that could have had an adverse influence on his trial (not to the extent that the government withheld from his lawyers, though).

Compare how the FBI haunted Pena's with their separation from Ruby. Make sense?

There is a hard-to-believe report in CE 1750 from an Oakland character who claimed Ruby had a slot business and he was a mechanic for it. I had that in the file.

Saying that Ruby was paid nothing is not material. He was in the position where if he were not afraid of his associates he'd be delighted to have them on his side. I feel that language is tricky.

On the other hand, I do not know if it is worth it, not in a table of present priorities.

I also do not believe that it would not have been possible to lean hard enough on Ruby to get from him whatever was wanted. The reports list him as a known criminal. He was vulnerable. This is their preference, for the pressure-point is built-in.

Sincerely,